

Woodburn School Redevelopment Commission Summary

First Six Months - January through July 2014.

- 1) In January, we established our commission and elected officers as requested by the city manager. The need for a set of bylaws was established at that time and have since been completed and approved.
- 2) We have regularly updated the City with copies of our agenda and minutes which are posted on the City's commission page at <http://www.morgantownwv.gov/government/commissions/woodburn-school-redevelopment-commission/>. We have also kept up to date with general developments in the City as well as maintained an awareness of the City's ongoing comprehensive development plan.
- 3) We attended the Business After Hours event that was hosted by the Chamber of Commerce to promote awareness of our commission within the businesses community.
- 4) As a group, the commission toured the school with a structural expert. We noted the appearance, layout, existence of internal walls (some of which are structural), HVAC system, wiring, plumbing and kitchen facilities.
- 5) We have presented and examined a wide range of real-life examples and novel concepts for the redevelopment of historical properties as both private and public spaces. We received intra-commission reuse presentations from Chris Haddox, Mary Angel Blount and Marti Shamberger based on their outside experience and research.
- 6) We supported the Boys and Girls Club's first annual Woodburn Arts and Music Festival in May and received a detailed post-festival report from the organizer.
- 7) We have received external presentations or reports from The Boys and Girls Club, The Preservation Alliance of West Virginia, United Way, and an associate of the Non-Profit Centers Network.
- 8) We commissioned a short video promoting the redevelopment of the school. We are still in the process of reviewing and reworking the video and are planning to shoot and edit additional footage.
- 9) We have, through requests to BOPARC and The Boys and Girls Club made a successful effort to improve the grounds through lawn maintenance, recycling bins, additional trash containers and generally policing the grounds for trash. We are currently planning an effort to improve the grounds adjacent to Charles Ave and are looking at improving the safety of the hill area between the buildings and the recess grounds.
- 10) We have asked BOPARC to create a protocol for immediate short- and possibly long-term rental to the public and/or businesses of various spaces on the property, to be administered by BOPARC. This should be very close to completion.
- 11) We have closely monitored the evolving plans for new recreational facilities in Morgantown and in Monongalia County as we may wish to either dovetail with those plans or avoid duplication of effort.
- 12) We have developed our own informational website and are now hosting it with the City of Morgantown at <http://morgantownwv.gov/woodburn> . We have also created a Facebook page for our commission at <https://www.facebook.com/ReuseWoodburnSchool/info> and a Gmail contact account at reusewoodburnschool@gmail.com.
- 13) We have most recently commissioned a feasibility study for the establishment of a non-profit consortium (NPC) in the building spaces. Space and infrastructure sharing is often of great benefit to non-profits which in turn benefit the community.